

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, DECEMBER 27, 1894.

THE SCRANTON OF TODAY.

Come and inspect our city. Elevation above the tide, 740 feet. Extremely healthy. Estimated population, 1894, 103,000. Registered voters, 20,529. Value of school property, \$750,000. Number of school children, 12,000. Average amount of bank deposits, \$10,000,000. It's the metropolis of northeastern Pennsylvania. Can produce electric power cheaper than Niagara. No better point in the United States at which to establish new industries. See how we grow:

Population in 1880	9,223
Population in 1870	35,000
Population in 1860	45,500
Population in 1850	75,215
Population in 1840 (estimated)	103,000

And the end is not yet.

Ex-Governor Pattison will soon be in a position to comprehend the entire significance of the figurative phrase: "He went up like a rocket and came down like a stick."

Cleanse Common Council.

We wonder if it never seemed just a trifle peculiar to the average city voter that he should, in the majority of instances, be presented with a slip of paper upon which some candidate had previously printed his own name, and then be expected to vote that slip of paper at his party caucus without a serious thought as to what the action implied. In the case of a councilman, such a careless action may clothe its beneficiary with authority to decide upon legislation of vital interest to his street, his ward, or his city; to have a say in the appropriation and disbursement of hundreds of thousands of dollars of public money; to be, for a time, one of a very few men who have in their keeping the whole governmental welfare of the city in which they live, as well as the direct pecuniary interests of every owner of taxable property in that city. This average voter would not hire a ten-year-old boy to shovel dirt without taking some kind of pains to ascertain whether the youngster could be trusted with the shovel. But he is expected to—and, as a matter of fact, he generally does—choose the man who, when chosen, holds the whip hand over every citizen and every civic interest of a local character in the city without giving a passing thought to the man's qualifications, to his capacity for responsibility, to his character, or to his personal standing among men.

That slip of paper very often, far too often, represents the weight of the average voter's sense of responsibility. It sometimes happens that accident does for American cities what thoughtful citizenship ought to do but generally fails to do—it sometimes happens, we say, that men are elected to local office—to councils, to the board of control, to aldermanships—who are qualified to be sent and kept in office; who do the office honor and reflect credit upon constituents who do not deserve half as much credit as they get. But the irony of all this is usually illustrated in the very next block or the very next ward, where equally as important a trust is conferred upon the least fitted man in the district—conferred upon him for no other reason in the world than because he was successful in getting his name printed on a slip of paper which bore the label of the dominant political party in the district or in the ward.

The unit man is elected to serve in the same capacity as the fit one, by the same grade of citizens; and whatever of good the fit man achieves is usually neutralized by the unit man's incapacity or venality. How often have we seen this illustrated? How often has it been demonstrated, right here in Scranton?

That too convenient slip of paper, what mischief has it not wrought? An election for common councilmen will occur next spring. The present common council has earned for itself a most unenviable reputation for incapacity and dishonesty. It has earned this reputation in spite of the presence in it of good and true men. These men have been in a minority—we do not claim that this minority has been a political minority in the partisan sense. We are not now trying to raise a partisan issue. The good men in common council, Democrats and Republicans, have been in a minority, have been many times outvoted by the men whom an indifferent public sentiment has permitted to acquire office because their names were printed on a little slip of paper, under the label of the particular party which chanced to "control" the respective wards. The constituents who sent these unit men to council would not have employed them as private agents, would not have given them the keys to their personal business vaults and money-drawers; would not have clothed them with the sovereign powers of a personal trustee or attorney. But they put them without hesitation into a place where all the wealth and all the municipal interests of the fourth city in Pennsylvania lay at their command, and did not even so much as exact a bond for good behavior.

Shall the "slip-of-paper" idiosyncrasy repeat itself next February?

It would be a first-rate plan for the voters of the Nineteenth ward next spring, irrespective of party, to send to

common council a representative citizen of the ward, a man of conceded honesty and high character, and one who would, if elected, strengthen not only the ward representation but also the entire city government. Such a choice is not impossible, if the right kind of educational work is achieved prior to election.

The Democrats of the Seventh ward owe it to themselves to nominate the best candidate for common council next spring that they can find in the ward. If their candidate should be a progressive and energetic property owner and taxpayer, all the better.

The Official Returns.

In another column we reproduce from the Philadelphia Press a nearly complete table of the popular vote, officially returned as having been cast at the recent elections. We acknowledge our indebtedness to the same excellent journal for the principal features in the following interesting analysis of that table. It will be perceived from this table that there were 11,353,777 ballots cast and counted, as compared with the 12,034,858 cast and counted in the presidential election of 1892. This is the largest vote ever cast in an off year, the falling off from the vote of two years ago being only \$31,481, a fact fully sufficient to disprove any claim that the result was due to indifference.

Another significant feature of the returns is the great increase of the Republican vote over 1892. In that year the total Republican vote was 5,175,202, while this year the Republican vote is 5,588,326—an increase of 413,124. The Press regards this large increase in a party's vote in an off year over the vote the same party cast in the previous presidential election as something unique in American political history. In the Democratic sweeps of 1874 and 1890, as it points out, no such increase was apparent. The Democratic victories were due in both cases to a falling off in the Republican vote. But this year the Republican victory is due to a large increase in the Republican vote—the party having cast not only the largest vote it ever polled, but also having cast the largest vote ever polled by any party in this country at any election ever held.

"In 1892," our contemporary adds, "the Democrats polled 5,554,226 votes and had a plurality of 379,025 over the Republicans, but they were in a minority of 969,205 on the total popular vote. This year the Republicans cast 5,588,326 votes, or 34,100 more than the Democrats did when they elected Cleveland, and they have a plurality over the Democrats of 1,439,570, and only lack 26,726 votes of having a popular majority. The Democrats called it a great popular endorsement two years ago, when they polled only 46 per cent. of the total vote. If that was a vote of approval, what ought to be the vote of this year to be called, when the Republicans polled almost exactly 50 per cent. of the vote? It must be remembered also that this was done under the great disadvantages that Republicans labor in the South. If they had been able to poll their vote in that section, the total Republican vote would have been over 6,000,000, and the Republican plurality over the Democratic vote would have been nearly 2,000,000."

Not the least interesting fact apparent in the table is the large growth of the Populist movement in the South. Despite audacious electoral frauds practiced in many places by the regular Democracy, the Populist vote in Alabama came within 18,000 of equalling the Democratic; in Georgia, within 40,000; in Louisiana, within 8,000; in Mississippi, within 13,000, and in Texas, within 44,000. When it is considered that Populism is the entering wedge which will hopelessly cleave and annihilate the South's once-boasted solidity, this rapid growth in Populism's strength possesses large significance. The intelligence of the South is less endangered by Populism—eccentric as that passing vagary undoubtedly is—than it is endangered by the hitherto unchallenged Bourbonism of that section. The subsidence of the Populist movement will not return these thousands of daring men, who have braved immemorial traditions, to the Democratic party. Upon the contrary, it will be the means eventually of turning thousands of energetic and fearless citizens of the younger generation into the Republican party, which can then hazard a serious battle with Democracy in Democracy's greatest stronghold.

If the Honorable R. Croker is wise, he will close his mouth with a time clock and then forget the combination.

Among the gentlemen suggested as possible candidates for select council from the Seventeenth ward, to succeed Sheriff Clemons, are Luther Keller, Horace Hand and J. A. Lansing. The ward could not do better than to choose one of the foregoing. All are men who would take into council the same sagacity, industry and honesty that each exhibits in the conduct of his individual business affairs. It is high time that each ward in Scranton were thus represented, in both branches of council. Give Scranton such a council and it could challenge the world to a comparison of sensible legislative results.

Byrnes' skirts may be clean; but his head is clearly too soft for the responsibility resting upon it. Dr. Parkhurst is right. Byrnes must go.

Sultan's Insolence.

The curious statement is made that the refusal of the Turkish sultan to permit Minister Terrell to serve as one of the members of the commission which is to investigate the recent Armenian atrocities leaves us without recourse. There is said to be no precedent in the annals of the state department covering a similar incident, and the announcement follows that the authorities at Washington will therefore withdraw their request and leave the investigation of those atrocities to a commission made up entirely of Europeans.

We have understood, from current reports, that a number of American missionaries were concerned in the massacres. This information may be inaccurate; but, if not, it would seem to afford ample ground for a spirited insistence upon our right to name a representative on the Armenian commission. It is explained in the advanced dispatches that the reason advanced

by the sultan for his disinclination to permit Minister Terrell to serve as a commissioner contemplates the extraordinary outburst of popular feeling in the United States against Turkey and the Turkish authority. The sultan, in plain words, fears that a Yankee on the jury might threaten a verdict of guilty; whereas, if the jurors are all European, there is a chance that Turkish blandishments may induce a more lenient finding. While, in this light, the sultan's objection is in reality a high compliment, it is obvious that it augments the moral reasons why we should insist upon representation upon the commission.

The central point in this whole incident is the manifest indifference, timidity or inefficiency, of our present state department. It has acted from the beginning as if it feared to express an original thought or make a decided move. There is abundance of provocation for an aggressive course. Thousands of American citizens, resident in Turkey as missionaries, are endangered by these anti-Christian uprisings, or put to shame by the American state department's lack of back bone. If, in the face of these facts, the United States government permits a senile semi-barbarian ruler to publicly and insolently snub its official representative, the name American will doubtless hereafter in Turkey be an invitation to ridicule or open indignity or both.

Populism will go just as soon as prosperity comes. It represents organized discontent which cannot survive the return of good times.

Now is the time for councilman candidates in the Fifteenth ward to announce themselves. If those who actually seek the office are not up to the standard, the voters of the ward should draft some one who is. There should be very little sentiment in such a choice. The property owners of the ward, when they choose a councilman, virtually select a trustee invested with power of attorney over their bank accounts. A responsibility of this magnitude obviously should not be tossed about at random.

Can it be possible the mayor of Reading has just learned that American law is a shrewd respecter of persons? Reading, then, must be slow.

The Fifth ward has had in Councilman Robinson a faithful and efficient representative, who retires with the general respect of his constituents, to assume responsible duties of another kind. The Fifth ward is very likely to keep its representation up to the same high standard. The First and the Third wards, if they intend to make any change, will yet have time to think the matter carefully over.

Bourke Crocker should get his life insured. Boss Croker, with less provocation, has before this "killed his man."

POLITICAL POINTS.

Jerome B. Niles, of Iowa, will in all probability be selected chairman of the Republican house caucus at Harrisburg Tuesday night.

General Clarkson thinks that if the convention were held this year McKinley would be the Republican choice, but inasmuch as two years are to intervene, he thinks Thomas B. Reed, of Maine, will come forward as a powerful candidate.

The organization of the next house will be as follows: Speaker, Henry F. Walton, of Philadelphia; chief clerk, A. D. Fetterolf, of Montgomery; recent clerk, Jere B. Ick, of Huntington; reading clerk, Fred W. Fleitz, of Lackawanna; journal clerk, E. J. Randolph, of Allegheny.

It is already assured that Senator Penrose will reintroduce his bill providing for the abolition of the much-abused Philadelphia building commission. Representative Ritter will present one for the retirement of the judges, and Representative Fow will hand in one amending the new ballot law.

"Uncle Amos" Mylin, the auditor general-elect, is disgusted with the silly reports sent out from Harrisburg that he has selected any of the clerks who will serve with him during his administration of the department's affairs. "To tell you the straight truth," said Mr. Mylin, "I have not made a selection of any kind whatever."

The board of directors of the Union League has decided upon Saturday evening, Jan. 5, as the date for the reception to Governor-elect Hastings. The reception is certain to be a very imposing affair. In addition to the 1,500 members of the league who will receive notice of the affair, invitations will probably be sent to prominent Republicans of Philadelphia and the state at large.

The next senate will have for chief clerk Edward W. Smiley, of Franklin; James B. Carson, of Butler, reading clerk; James L. Brown, of Philadelphia, journal clerk; and Herman P. Miller, of Dauphin, senate parliamentarian. James P. Harrah, of Beaver, a personal and political friend of Senator Quay, will be sergeant-at-arms in place of John H. Meyers, of Lancaster. W. S. Robinson, of Erie, has been endorsed by the Erie delegation for message clerk. There are a score of candidates for doorkeeper and the other subordinate places in the senate.

Sockless Jerry Simpson figures it out that the Populists show a gain of 70 per cent. over the vote polled in 1892. He adds: "It seems to me that there is room for a party that will embrace the common people and advocate their principles and defend their rights. It may be the Populist party, or it may not be. I cannot but believe that the Populist party is the nucleus, and a Jeffersonian party will spring up and take the place of the Democratic party of today, which, as now organized, has shown that it is utterly incapable of managing the affairs of the country."

To recapitulate: There will be in the state senate, which will meet next Tuesday, 43 Republicans and 7 Democrats, the majority party having five more than a three-fourths and nine more than a two-thirds vote of the entire body. There will be in the house 175 Republicans and 59 Democrats, including the three Pennsylvania Democrats men from the Second, Third and Fourth wards of Philadelphia. The Republicans of the house have 22 more than a three-fourths, and 38 more than a two-thirds vote of the 294 members. There would be on joint ballot the two houses a Republican majority of 182, which is only nine less than three-fourths of all the 254 members of both houses.

THE POPULAR VOTE.

Nearly Complete Record of the Votes Cast in This Year's Elections.

The following table, which was compiled by the Philadelphia Press, contains the vote for forty-two states and the territory of Utah, soon to become a state. The vote is not official except for a few states, but the variation in these will be very small. The vote from Florida and Nevada is not at hand, but they can affect the totals only a very little, as the vote was light in both states. The Fusion vote is credited wholly to the Populist party in Alabama and Georgia and to the Republicans in North Carolina. If any unfairness is done in this way it is to the Republicans. In the votes of several other states also the figures do not do the Republicans justice, but it is not possible always to be absolutely accurate where there are alliances between two parties. The total vote when all the figures are in will probably reach 11,350,000. The following is the table:

States.	Rep.	Dem.	Pop.	Pro.
Alabama	72,538	64,275	1,251	1,251
Arkansas	10,471	20,431	51,394	10,471
California	110,728	117,841	1,251	1,251
Colorado	30,843	8,934	16,487	4,500
Conn.	83,575	92,881	1,545	2,310
Del.	18,382	18,857	499	499
Florida	120,323	80,742	7,121	205
Georgia	10,208	7,057	1,251	1,251
Idaho	45,888	32,405	60,066	19,490
Illinois	110,728	117,841	1,251	1,251
Indiana	229,375	149,890	34,967	7,427
Iowa	146,296	26,992	115,421	4,015
Kansas	144,561	18,909	17,947	1,728
Louisiana	78,024	22,507	14,653	2,016
Maine	69,265	35,287	4,350	1,740
Maryland	98,254	96,028	9,037	9,965
Mass.	189,207	123,953	20,012	18,758
Mich.	227,215	130,823	30,012	18,758
Minn.	148,000	14,094	87,455	6,882
Miss.	191	25,591	12,080	561
Mo.	225,411	235,547	42,452	2,069
Mon.	22,559	9,000	15,000	622
Neb.	94,623	7,021	97,815	4,439
Nevada	40,491	33,559	322	1,750
N. H.	163,823	115,315	4,149	7,252
N. J.	673,818	117,710	11,694	25,255
N. C.	148,284	127,293	15,660	420
N. D.	72,728	22,987	15,660	420
Ohio	413,388	22,987	49,484	22,229
Oregon	41,034	17,498	26,033	2,700
Penn.	674,801	333,404	16,444	25,433
R. I.	23,399	17,960	2,241	2,241
S. C.	17,085	36,052	27,383	1,101
S. D.	40,623	8,102	27,383	1,101
Tenn.	103,104	104,326	22,982	3,000
Texas	52,295	209,381	150,028	3,000
Vermont	8,656	13,142	7,289	464
Virginia	88,849	113,438	10,265	206
Wash.	24,512	14,169	24,983	206
W. Va.	83,461	75,176	3,417	622
Wis.	196,150	142,250	25,694	11,240
Wyo.	18,149	6,965	2,178	11,240
Utah	21,323	19,995	553	553
Totals	5,588,326	4,148,456	1,246,752	219,843

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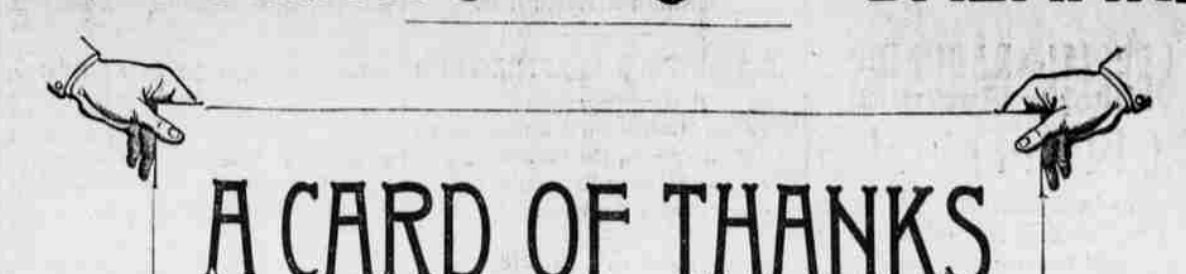
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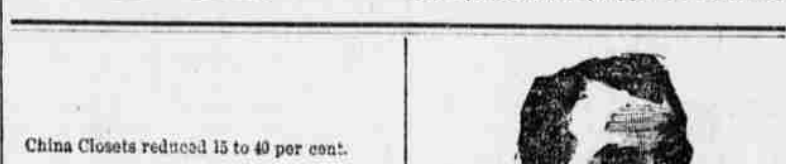
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